

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL POSS DUPE

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21

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 /091 W

----- 044914

R 290817Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9908

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 5239

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR MO

SUBJECT: KING HASSAN DENIES HEALTH RUMORS; PHILOSOPHIZES ON
ELECTIONS

REF: RABAT 5198

1. SUMMARY: IN TELEVISED ANNUAL ID AL-FITR SPEECH SEPTEMBER 26,
KING HASSAN DENIED RUMORS HE ILL. HE ALSO SPOKE IN VERY GENERAL,
PHILOSOPHICAL TERMS OF FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS, CALLING FOR A CAMPAIGN
FREE OF SLANDER AND ABUSE, BUT REFRAINING FROM ANNOUNCING DATE
OF FIRST ROUND OF POLLING. FINALLY, KING PRONOUNCED RECENT NATIONAL
LOAN A SUCCESS. END SUMMARY.

2. ILL HEALTH RUMOR DENIED: KING LED OFF WITH FIRM DENIAL OF RECENT
RUMOR THAT HE ILL (REFTEL). (IN ADDITION, A SEPTEMBER 26 OFFICIAL
MAP TICKER ITEM SPECIFICALLY LAID THE RUMORS TO "ALGERIAN OFFICIALS"
AND CERTAIN SPANIARDS WHO "TRUMPET" ALGERIAN POSITIONS. AS FURTHER
EVIDENCE OF KING'S GOOD HEALTH, LOCAL TELEVISION SHOWED KING RIDING
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HORSEBACK DURING ID CEREMONIES SEPTEMBER 26.)

3. ELECTIONS: KING WENT ON TO DECLARE THAT MOROCCANS WOULD BE "CALLED UPON TO GO TO THE POLLS IN THE NEAR FUTURE." IN FURTHER VERY GENERAL, PHILOSOPHICAL REMARKS, HE URGED VOTERS TO SELECT SERIOUS

AND FULLY REPRESENTATIVE CANDIDATES, AND WARNED CANDIDATES NOT TO ABUSE OR TOY WITH THE ELECTORATE, MAINTAINING THAT THE ELECTION EXPERIMENT ITSELF WAS MORE IMPORTANT THAN WHO WON. IN A PRESUMED ALLUSION TO LEFTIST PARTIES, KING WARNED PUBLIC AGAINST THOSE WHO DID NOT BELIEVE IN THE MOROCCAN SYSTEM OR SUPPORTED "SLAVERY FOR THIS FREE AND IDEPENDENT COUNTRY." HE ALSO CALLED FOR CONTROL OF "NERVES" DURING ELECTION CAMPAIGN AND PREDICTED THAT POLITICAL PARTIES WOULD LATER HAVE TO COOPERATE WITH ONE ANOTHER AS NONE WOULD PREDOMINATE. KING ADDED THAT HE WOULD NAME THE FUTURE GOVERNMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONSTITUTION, ON BASIS OF PUBLIC INTEREST AND GOOD AND "NOT FOR ANY OTHER CONSIDERATION." KING EXPRESSED SATISFACTION THAT DESPITE ABSENCE OF A PARLIAMENT, MOROCCAN PEOPLE HAD RISEN AS ONE MAN AGAINST THOSE WHO WOULD DENY MOROCCO'S TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY (I.E., IN SAHARA).

4. NATIONAL LOAN: FINALLY, KING NOTED THAT DESPITE PREDICTIONS OF DETRACTORS, NATIONAL SAHARA LOAN HAD BEEN OVERSUBSCRIBED AND HAD DEMONSTRATED UNITY OF THE PEOPLE BUT SPECIFICALLY REJECTED NOTION PUT FORWARD BY OPPOSITION PRESS THAT ANY GOOD COULD COME FROM BREAKING OUT CONTRIBUTORS BY SOCIO-ECONOMIC CLASS.

5. COMMENT: KING'S CONCERN TO SHOW HIMSELF IN GOOD HEALTH WAS OBVIOUS IN THE PRIORITY HE GAVE THIS MATTER IN HIS SPEECH. KING'S TELEVISION APPEARANCE SHOULD HELP DISPEL THE RUMORS: HE LOOKED WELL AND IN GOOD SPIRITS.

6. KING'S COMMENTS SHED LITTLE NEW LIGHT ON ELECTION PLANS BUT AT LEAST WERE INDICATION OF HIS INTENTION TO PROCEED. HIS AVOIDANCE OF SETTING SPECIFIC DATE FOR FIRST ROUND OF POLLING WILL AGAIN DISAPPOINT POLITICAL PARTIES, WHICH HAVE BEEN HOPING FOR BEGINNING OF COUNT-DOWN. MEANWHILE, OUR PARTY CONTACTS INDICATE PARTIES' MAIN PRECONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATION IN ELECTIONS REMAIN TO BE SATISFIED, FOREMOST AMONG THESE BEING GUARANTEES FOR HONESTY OF ELECTIONS. NATIONAL COMMISSION TO OVERSEE THE VOTING, WHICH WAS LAST MEN-
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TIONED BY KING IN HIS JULY 8 SPEECH (RABAT 3707), HAS NOT BEEN BROACHED AGAIN, THEY SAY.
ANDERSON

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NNN

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